In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 4, 7, 10 and 13 without disclaimer or prejudice to applicants.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 6 and 12 such that they read as follows, and add new claim 15.

1. (Amended) A device for use in the electrochemical analysis of an analyte in a liquid sample, which comprises:

a non-conducting substrate;

a discontinuous conductive layer deposited on adjacent first and second portions, respectively, of the non-conducting substrate and defining a non-conducting gap between the first and second portions;

an analyte-specific reagent coated on the conductive layer on the first portion;

a reference electrode on the second conductive layer on the second portion;

a spacer layer deposited over the conductive layer;

a monofilament mesh coated with a surfactant or chaotropic agent, the mesh being laid over the analyte-specific reagent, the reference electrode and the spacer layer; and

a second non-conductive layer, adhered to the mesh layer, but not co-extensive therewith, thereby providing a sample application area at one edge of the mesh.

2. (Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein the reagent does not contain filler having both hydrophobic and hydrophilic surface regions.

9. (Amended) A device according to claim 1, wherein the first conductive layer comprises graphite particles, carbon particles and a polymer binder, wherein the graphite particles have an average particle size of 1-20μm and a surface area of 1-50m^2/g, and the carbon particles have an average size of 5-70 nm and a surface area of less than 150m^2/g.

~~th~~ the ~~reagent.~~

12.(Amended) A device according to claim 2, wherein the first conductive layer comprises graphite particles, carbon particles and a polymer binder, wherein the graphite particles have an average particle size of 1-20μm and a surface area of 1-50m^2/g, and the carbon particles have an average size of 5-70 nm and a surface area of less than 150m^2/g.

15. A device for use in the electrochemical analysis of an analyte in a liquid sample, which comprises:

a non-conducting substrate;

a first and a second conductive layer deposited on first and second portions, respectively, of the non-conducting substrate and defining a non-conducting gap between the first and second conductive layers;

an analyte-specific reagent coated on the first conductive layer;

a reference electrode on the second conductive layer;

a spacer layer deposited over a portion of both the first and second conductive layers;

a monofilament mesh coated with a surfactant or chaotropic agent, the mesh being laid over the analyte-specific reagent, the reference electrode and the spacer layer; and

a second non-conductive layer, adhered to the mesh layer, but not co-extensive therewith, thereby providing a sample application area at one edge of the mesh.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application and the Office Action of September 10, 2001 are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14 and 15 appear in this application as amended.

As requested, an Abstract on a separate sheet of paper is submitted herewith